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MAY 20 2004

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: )  
David J. Robson, et al. ) Before Examiner  
Serial No. 08/876.322 ) Cintins  
Filed June 16, 1997 ) Group Art  
IMPROVEMENTS IN OR ) Unit 1724  
RELATING TO ABSORPTION )  
OF HYDROPHOBIC WATER- )  
IMMISCIBLE LIQUIDS )

I hereby certify that this  
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James B. Myers

Name of Registered Representative

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**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111**

Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Advisory Action dated January 23, 2004, please consider the following  
amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of the claims, which begins on page  
2 of this submission.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this submission.

The Applicants filed concurrent with this Response a Request for Continued Examination  
along with a Request for an Extension of Time to respond to this Office Action. Additionally,  
please provide any extensions of time that may be necessary and charge any fees that may be due  
to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but do not include any payment of issue fees that are or may  
become due.

RESPONSE TO ACTION 1-23-04  
Robson et al. Serial No. 08/876,322  
007058-000005.IBM.283078

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